

# Emergency Responder

WASHINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

March - April 2004

## Woodbury to leave as Washington EMD director

After six years as director of the Washington Emergency Management Division, Glen Woodbury announced he would leave the division July 1 to accept a faculty position with the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Woodbury has served as the state's emergency management division director since August 1998 and helped direct the state's emergency response and recovery from the Nisqually Earthquake of 2001 and the September 2001 terrorist attacks. He also oversaw the startup of the division's operations center at Camp Murray in 1998 and Washington's entrance into the Emergency Management Assistance Compact of 48 states, two territories and the District of Columbia.

"The best part of the last six years has been the people I have had the opportunity to work with," Woodbury told emergency management division staff. "I will miss my colleagues and friends throughout the state's emergency response community."

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, director of the Washington Military Department which oversees EMD, said, "We obviously hate to lose such a dedicated and dynamic leader as Director of our Emergency Management Division. Our loss, however, is also our gain in that his new position will enable him to even more effectively influence national emergency preparedness and homeland security policy."

Lowenberg said the state military department will embark on an aggressive national search for a

*Continued on page 4—*



Fire trucks demonstrate a decontamination operation as part of the Statewide Hazmat Workshop April 3-4 at the HAMMER Facility near Richland. A total of 155 students from the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and public and private sector first response agencies attended the training that was sponsored by WSP and the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD Photo)

## EMD prepares plans to spend FFY 2004 DHS grants

Preparation of plans to spend \$44 million in federal funds for homeland security, law enforcement terrorism prevention and the Citizen Corps are now the focus of state, regional and local homeland security programs.

The state and local jurisdictions face a May 28, 2004, deadline for the submission of an Initial Strategy Implementation Spending Plan (ISIP) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the 2004 grants.

Each local jurisdiction receiving funds from the 2004 grants must prepare an ISIP that will identify the projects to be funded and how each project relates to the goals and objectives of the State Homeland Security Strategy.

DHS officially awarded Washington its FY 2004 homeland security grants last March 30. The state's award included \$33 million for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), \$9.9 million for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and \$694,000 for the Citizens Corps Program.

### Homeland Security Grant Program

At least \$26.7 million of the HSGP grant must be awarded to local jurisdictions with a maximum of \$6.6 million allowed to be retained at the state level.

Local jurisdictions may use the grant to purchase equipment and fund training, exercises and planning.

The homeland security grant requires institutionalization of the Incident Command System in Washington's entire state and local response system, and the grant also strongly recommends the use of the new National Incident Management System.

*Continued on page 2—*

## State hazard mitigation plan nears completion

By the end of April, Washington expects to be the first state in the region, and one of the first in the nation, to submit its hazard mitigation plan to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review.

The state will be submitting an enhanced plan, which, when approved, makes the state eligible for increased Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds following a disaster. Under federal regulations, a state with an enhanced hazard mitigation plan can receive hazard mitigation grant funds equivalent of up to 20 percent of federal expenditures on a disaster. States with a standard plan are only eligible for 7.5 percent funding for hazard mitigation following a disaster.

Additionally, the plan keeps the state eligible for permanent repair and restoration work and for fire management assistance funded under the Stafford Act for new disasters after November 1, 2004.

The difference between a standard and enhanced plan is that an enhanced plan demonstrates the state's commitment to a comprehensive hazard mitigation program. Such a program includes establishing state criteria for federally funded mitigation projects, providing support to local jurisdictions for hazard mitigation planning and projects, establishing partnerships to further mitigation, and including hazard mitigation into various initiatives such as growth management and critical areas protection, floodplain management, and shoreline protection.

The development of the state's plan involved about 30 state agencies and a 22-member advisory team with representatives of various disciplines such as emergency management and land-use planning and natural hazard experts. Additionally, panels of state, federal, and academic hazard experts reviewed hazard profiles researched and developed for the plan. EMD's Mitigation Section managed the plan development process.

Participating state agencies submitted annexes describing their vulnerability to the state's natural hazards, past and current mitigation efforts, and projected mitigation activities during the next three years. They also provided facilities information to assist with the development of the risk assessment in the state plan.

Before the final touches were put on the state plan, the state Emergency Management Council in March unanimously voted to recommend that Gov. Gary Locke approve and promulgate the plan. Emergency Management Division staff is working with the Governor's Policy Office to obtain the Governor's approval in early summer.

Because it is an enhanced plan, a national panel will review the state plan. The panel will include staff from FEMA regions and headquarters as well as staff from at least one other state. FEMA Region 10 staff has seen most of the state plan, and has provided positive comments about the quality of the plan, including the enhanced plan criteria. FEMA approval of the plan is expected during the summer.

## State prepares plan for FY 2004 DHS grants

*Continued from page 1—*

### Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program

The Washington State Patrol administers this grant program in coordination with the Emergency Management Division. At least \$7.9 million of the grant award must be allocated to local jurisdictions. The remaining \$1.9 million may be retained at the state level. Grant funds may be used for equipment purchases as well as for training, exercises, and planning.

### Citizen Corps Program

At least \$55,200 of the grant award must be assigned to local jurisdictions. The remaining \$138,800 may be retained at the state level. The Citizen Corps grant can be used for public education and outreach; equipment, training and exercises; and for a volunteer program.

## Training to start on local buffer zone plans

Training will commence in May to enable local jurisdictions to prepare homeland security protection plans for buffer zones around critical infrastructures or key assets.

Eighteen Washington jurisdictions initially will prepare the buffer zone protection plans for such facilities as large-scale manufacturing plants, major shopping malls, mass transit and rail bridges, key electrical system facilities, major financial centers, oil and natural gas refineries, nuclear power plants, and important government facilities.

The plans will identify the areas that are vulnerable to terrorist attack, improve connections between off-site and on-site protection plans, mitigate security problems and improve overall preparedness both in and around critical infrastructure sites.

"We hope the training will give jurisdictions a clearer idea of what needs to be addressed in the buffer zone protection plans," said Jeff Parsons, infrastructure planner in the Emergency Management Division's Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit. "That will help the jurisdictions to complete their plans by mid-summer for submission to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security."

## E911 Advisory Committee officers are elected

Chris Fischer, director at ValleyCOMM in Kent, King County, was re-elected this past February to serve her fifth term as Chair of the E911 Advisory Committee. She has previously served four consecutive one-year terms, from January 2000 through December 2003. Fischer represents the interests of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO).

Steve Reinke, E911 coordinator for Kittitas County, Ellensburg, was elected to serve a one-year term as vice chair and represents the eastern Washington rural counties.

## Mitigation plans due

Communities must have a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved natural hazard mitigation plan in place by next Nov. 1 to be eligible for the federal mitigation programs, including those available from presidential disaster declarations.

Through mid-April in Washington, FEMA Region 10 has approved nine plans and has six others under review. Eight others are under review at the state prior to being submitted to FEMA, and an additional twelve are being developed. A large number of communities, counties, special purpose districts, and agencies still need to begin the process.

Here are some steps local jurisdictions can take to meet this mitigation planning requirement:

- Use your best available data, such as the current Growth Management comprehensive plan, existing natural hazard plans, shoreline management plans and critical area ordinances.
- Keep focused on your most likely hazards.
- Keep the public involved in the process. Although public involvement is required for the new plan, it also can help develop new ideas.
- Develop a process. Communities may use an existing plans as a starting point.
- Use existing plans that include mitigation elements.
- Review the checklist for the natural hazard mitigation plan.
- Develop mitigations actions that independently will reduce or eliminate the hazard, not just add on to existing programs.

For information contact: Marty Best, State Hazard Mitigation Programs Manager, (253) 512-7073, <m.best@emd.wa.gov>; John Ufford, HMGP project coordinator, (253) 512-7475, <j.ufford@emd.wa.gov>; or Lorri Hergert, (253) 512-7079 or l.hergert@emd.wa.gov.



Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, (left) director of the Washington Military Department, led the farewell salute for Ken Parrish, right, at an April 9 luncheon. Lowenberg presented Parrish with the Washington Air National Guard's Distinguished Service Medal to honor Parrish's nearly 13 years of service with the military department. (EMD Photo)

## EOC supervisor Ken Parrish says goodbye to State EMD

Veteran Emergency Operations Center Supervisor Ken Parrish left the Emergency Management Division (EMD) April 12 to accept a homeland security position with the state Department of Agriculture.

After joining the Washington Military Department in 1991 as supervisor of the Civil Defense Radiological Defense Program, Parrish moved to the Emergency Management Division of the Department of Trade and Economic Development two years later as a hazardous materials and incident command exercise and training coordinator.

He was a regular part of EMD's emergency activations for much of the 1990s, serving as either deputy emergency operations center supervisor and or as chief of the operations section. In 1998, he succeeded Glen Woodbury as the emergency operations supervisor, leading the division's emergency operations during the Nisqually 2001 Earthquake, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the challenging wildfire fire season of 2001.

"It will be very hard to leave a job that I really loved, and I count myself blessed and fortunate to have had this unique opportunity to work with so many truly professional and caring people," Parrish wrote to EMD staff.

Parrish said the major highlight of his work in EMD was his involvement with the plans and construction of the new state Emergency Operations Center in 1998 at Camp Murray.

"It was a Cinderella Program for us – the culmination of a dream of going from the worst EOC (among the 50 states) to the best at the time," he said. "The capstone was getting the position as EOC supervisor soon after moving in" to the new emergency operations center.

Another highlight of his EMD service was the expansion and updating of the emergency operations center, Parrish said. While EMD did not envision the requirement to expand the EOC so soon after its construction to accommodate new technology, he said the division moved quickly to adopt the practices and technology that have improved the state's overall emergency response capabilities.

*Continued on page 4—*

## State appeals winter storm disaster declaration denial

Gov. Gary Locke has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) denial of a disaster declaration for January winter storm damage in Clark and Skamania counties.

Locke's appeal, which was submitted April 9, asked FEMA to reconsider its decision against a disaster declaration for wind and ice storm damage in southwest Washington between Jan. 6-10.

Freezing rain and ice caused widespread damage in the Clark County area and brought tourist and commercial traffic through Skamania to a virtual standstill. Downed trees knocked out power in Clark County and contributed the bulk of the nearly 37,000 cubic yards of debris that was hauled to local landfills.

Locke's appeal letter noted that FEMA on Feb. 19 had declared a disaster in adjoining Oregon counties of Columbia, Hood River and Multnomah. The governor emphasized that Clark County's \$4.2 million damage total was the second highest of the five counties in Washington and Oregon affected by the storm.

## Woodbury departs July 1 to accept faculty position

*Continued from page 3—*

new director. "We would like to complete the selection process by the end of June, but the most important consideration is selection of a successor who will sustain the standards of excellence Glen has established during his tenure of office."

Woodbury served as president of the National Emergency Management Association from 2002 to 2003 and played a key role in involving state emergency managers in the homeland security issues of the post 9/11 world.

He first joined the EMD as a duty officer in 1994 after 11 years of U.S. Army service. He served as manager of the division's emergency operations center from 1995 to 1998.

The governor's request was for aid to repair public facilities and infrastructure in Clark and Skamania counties and for hazard mitigation funds to prevent similar disasters from occurring.

In its March 10 denial of the Washington disaster request, FEMA stated that "Effective response does not appear to exceed the capabilities of the State and local governments."

## Parrish leaves EMD

*Continued from page 3—*

Parrish said EMD also has evolved its operations to reflect the regional and national scope of emergencies. As examples, he said the division provided personnel and other support for the East Coast following the 9/11 attacks, and the division took on the national coordinator role in 2003 for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact just two years after Washington entered the compact.

As for his new position in the agriculture department, Parrish said, "I'll continue to be very deeply involved with emergency management in the state and will be the agriculture department liaison during exercises, disasters, and homeland security related events."

## McNeil EOC supervisor

Paul McNeil was named interim emergency operations section supervisor April 9 while the Emergency Management Division recruits a permanent replacement for Ken Parrish, who left the division April 12.

McNeil was appointed to the position of assistant emergency operations section supervisor last December. He previously had served in project positions in EMD's Nisqually Earthquake disaster recovery program.

Jim Kadrmas, state emergency operations officer, temporarily will serve as assistant EOC supervisor to replace McNeil.

## Bob Oenning named to FCC subcommittee

Bob Oenning was appointed a co-chair, along with Nancy Pollock of St. Paul, Minnesota's Metropolitan 911 Board, to the Enhanced 911 focus group, *Network Outages and Best Practices*.

This subcommittee makes recommendations to the Network Reliability and Interoperability Council – VII (NRIC VII) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Bob's appointment is for a two-year term. The group's focus is to review the 911 impact of network outages and establish best practices.

## FEMA honors Ufford

John Ufford, program coordinator in the Mitigation Section of the Emergency Management Division's Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit, was honored April 14 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for his work with the Project Impact mitigation program.



## Emergency Responder

March-April 2004. Published by the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department.

**Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg,**  
The Adjutant General

**Glen Woodbury, Director**

**Rob Harper, Mark Clemens, Penelope Cassidy, Editors**

WMD is an equal opportunity employer. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of disability, persons over 40 years of age, and disabled and Vietnam-era veterans are encouraged to apply for all positions. The *Emergency Responder* is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information, call Rob Harper at (800) 562-6108, ext. 7005; (253) 512-7298 TDD; or email him at <r.harper@emd.wa.gov>.

The Washington Emergency Management Division, including the State Emergency Operations Center, is located in Building 20 on Camp Murray, located at exit 122 on Interstate 5 south of Tacoma, Washington.